

Important Roles of Men on the Line Are Usually Overlooked by the General Follower of Football

FOOTBALL SUCCESS BRINGS BACKFIELD TOO MUCH CREDIT

Great Work of Linemen Most Often Overlooked by Average Follower.

DUTIES AND FAULTS OF FORWARDS POINTED OUT

By SOL METZGER.
Couch Washington and Jefferson Football Team.

Football calls for perfection in so many departments of play that a coach often finds himself at a loss to place his hand on the most important. In detail play fundamentals stand out above all else; in team play the work of the forwards—the rush line from end to end—on both offence and defence, is the turning point between victory and defeat. They are the stone wall of defence, the steam roller of offence.

One may go far into football history and he will invariably find that the great elevens have been marked by aggressive linemen. The line must bear the brunt of the opponent's attack. On offence it has made all the so-called all American backs. Precious few of them ever made ground carrying the ball without the cooperation of their forwards. In fact, the forwards are the true sport that proper credit is not given in football to the men who clear the way for the winning touchdown or who in turn prevent the other eleven from scoring.

The average football follower is prone to praise the backs too highly. This is because these work is more open and more visible. Every coach is told countless times about the star backs who will try for the team. While it is令人ing to know that such men will be on the squad, defeat is the portion, no matter what their ability, if the line is not up to standard.

Must Make Openings.

The back has not been in who can consistently gain ground if his forwards do not make his openings. For example, there was Mercer, Pennsylvania captain, as fine a back as one could ever see. Yet one year his work was apparently so weak he was deluged with criticism. Mercer was actually as good that year as ever. The difference was with the forwards. Had they been up to standard, Mercer would have ranked with the strongest—*one* of the game's greatest backs.

Take the case of Garrels of Michigan. Although powerful, fast, aggressive and as ideal a back as ever played, he was helpless in 1906 against the superior Quakers rush line. And Harvard in the old days the Crimson produced backs without equal to any in the land, but until Haughton came and brought the line up to standard Harvard failed in its big tests.

He is a wise coach who gives attention to his line. That perfected, mediocre backs can gain ground. The forwards are the vital part of the machine. Their job is to clear the attack—they must dispose of the first line of defence so the runner and his interference—the halfback—may get by the line of scrimmage without check and with full speed. Then, and then only, is consistent rushing possible.

Other Duties of Linemen.

On defense the linemen do just the opposite. They must make a break through the opposing line or charge it back into the oncoming play. This checks and delays the attack behind the line of scrimmage and permits the defensive backs—the secondary line of defence—to the runner and his interference—the halfback—may get by the line of scrimmage without check and with full speed. Then, and then only, is consistent rushing possible.

In addition to these two main requisites a line should: (1) Form some of the interference for the runner; (2) do most of the kicking and interference on punts, kicks and (3) take over the bulk of the placement kicking. These forwards are generally the most solid members of the team and therefore are not as nervous a temperament as the lighter and more highly strung backs, when they are likely to prove less accurate in the goal from which we mean the game.

The spectator at a football game will better appreciate the scheme of things if he gives attention to the two lines of scrimmage. He will often find one man playing against two and overcoming them. In fact, at the point of attack, two players, and even more, are often sent against the defensive lineman in order to bowl him out of the way of the play.

Defensive Play First.

Hence this one defensive forward must not only outlay and outcharge these two opponents to be successful in the one play but he must also break through them from time to time to stop the attack behind the line of scrimmage. The players who do this certain deserve as much praise as the backs, for on them rests the burden of the game, and those who say there is no skill in football should think over the matter of one lineman on defense meeting an attack aimed at him and stopping it.

As defensive football comes first, defensive play is the most important. The defensive linemen takes a position on the line of scrimmage and never backs if unless he is a moving centre, so he can charge forward swift and low. His position is not unlike that of a sprinter at the start of a race.

His legs are kept under him in order to utilize his powerful thigh muscles in charge and his torso and leg muscles in driving back and driving in keeping their bodies from getting against him. Once that is done he is body blocked and out of the play.

Faults of Forwards.

If the line man takes the same position as on defense. As he cannot use his hands, his object is to charge under the defensive forward playing against him and then raise him up as he drives him back.

Most linemen have three big faults to overcome:

(1) They charge too high and are carried out of the play.

(2) They play with heads down and do not see what is being done.

(3) They stop their charge when hit an opponent instead of driving this opponent back into the play or out of the way.

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LEADING FACTORS IN "BIG 3" FOOTBALL DISCUSSION.



BILL MCLEAN
PRINCETON TACKLE

GUYON OF CARLISLE WITH GEORGIA TECH

Butner of Brown Also Enlisted
With Football Forces of
Southerners.



DICK HARTE, HARVARD END

H. CHURCH
YALE END.

McLean is expected to play a
star game for Princeton at
tackle—a very vital position.

Harte is again starring at end for
Harvard and Church is proving his
worth as a wing man at New
Haven.

GEORGETOWN WILL BE TESTED BY MIDDIES

Exendine's Football Team
Meets Navy at Annapolis
Next Saturday.

Washington, Sept. 26.—Coach Exendine has fifty candidates for his Georgetown eleven three complete elevens working out daily. When college opens on Wednesday freshman players are expected to show this number up to seven-eleven. With seven of last season's first string men back in good condition football prospects at the hilltop were never brighter.

The first real test of the Blue and Gray will be held at Annapolis on Oct. 10. The Navy, Exendine's passing game will be tried out there and the Midshipmen should keep busy all afternoon. It is expected that many players will be given trials against the Navy in order to give Exendine an idea of what they may do in the battle later against Dartmouth at Haverhill, Mass.

Starting with the 1915 backfield in tact, Coach Exendine has but to fit four places in the line and the daily battles at the hilltop for those berths is a hot one. Indeed, one or two of the 1915 regulars may lose out to new players this fall.

James N. Nicholson of Pittsburgh is manager of the eleven and Raymond Miller, a brother of Coach Miller, is captain. The schedule follows:

September 29—Central High School of
Washington, D. C.

October 2—Baltimore City College.

October 14—Carnegie Hall.

October 21—Columbia University School.

November 4—Lawrenceville.

November 11—Piedmont Institute.

BETTERS CYCLE RECORD.

Cestone Travels From New York
to Boston in 18 Hours.

Schedule Announced for Blue and
White Yearlings.

Columbia's freshman football eleven

will play five games this fall, according

to the schedule announced yesterday at

Morningside Heights. Four of the games

will be held at Blue and White's home

field, while the fifth will be staged at

the Columbia school with the strong

team ever having had before it.

Guy Cogswell, ex-Worcester Academy

athlete, and Jack Cannon, formerly cap-

tain of Everett High football team, who

were star members of the 1914 football

team, will be the two top

products of the freshman team last fall

and Coach Frank W. Palmer, who

has been with the team since the

beginning of the year, is the coach.

Although two weeks yet remain before

Washington and Lee play at the Army

and Navy, Exendine's

team is the best in the country.

They are now 10-0-1 and have

not lost a game this year.

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